

averse to noise. Since the villagers on the island made too much noise to suit him, he destroyed them by way of punishment. The boatmen with us kept very quiet while on the island, and never left the landing place. The students were also rather subdued, and only one of them had the courage to climb into the volcano, my cargadore Elvina. When we returned and met the other students at the landing place, Elvina reported that the old man had risen up from the lake, and had talked



FIG. II. The last outposts of cogon on the upper slopes of Taal volcano, Philippine Islands.

with the Americanos, a story which seemed to add considerably to the respect of the boatmen for us.

We returned to Banadero in the evening, spent another night on the observatory roof, walked to Tanuan in the morning, and returned to Los Banos by rail.

(To be continued.)

SHORTER NOTES

A LETTER FROM GREENLAND.—“Just a message from this land of Thule, as the Danes call the unglaciated tract about Wolstenholme Sound, where I am studying the plants, rocks, and birds this summer, the guest of the Danish explorer Knud

Rasmussen who has a station here,—though he is an absent host, having gone to Denmark to arrange for bringing back to his home museum the great meteorite which I examined for him at Melville Bay last winter.

It is snowing here to-day, and sledging is still expedient though hardly safe. Nevertheless, summer has come to the Northland. The big gold and black bumblebee is a-buzz over the catkins of our diminutive willow trees; the royal purple *Saxifraga oppositifolia* is a-blossom among the snow-drifts, wherever a gravel bank is exposed and the golden poppy is coming into blossom along with *Draba hirta* and *alpina*, *Oxyria digyna*, *Cochlearia officinalis*, *Ranunculus nivalis?*, *Pedicularis arctica*, *Potentilla pulchella*, *Mertillus* sp., *Dryas integrifolia* and a number of others. The snow-bunting sings his blithe lark-like song all day long and the ptarmigan is nesting on the hills. All day long the sun circles the sky. It is summer in Thule!

W. ELMER EKBLAW*

ETAH, N. GREENLAND,
June 30, 1914

WILD FLOWER PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF AMERICA

The Chicago Chapter of the Wild Flower Preservation Society of America has leased a natural tract of land near the city as a permanent reserve for the native plants of the southern Lake Michigan region. In this tract the chapter will safeguard the species naturally growing there; bring in all those species that have been previously lost to the area; and allow all persons to visit and enjoy the wild flowers so long as they refrain from picking them.

The tract is amply extensive. It includes naturally forested land; a deep wooded gulch through which runs a winding stream; high timbered banks and knolls, and a large, characteristic, shifting sand dune. On May 15th, this year, 93 species were found in flower on the tract though the date was too early for the full vernal blooming period.

* Extract from a letter received by Mrs. E. G. Britton which was mailed in Copenhagen, 28 May, 1915. On 19 June a relief ship sailed from Boston to carry supplies to the party of which Mr. Ekblaw is one.—ED.

The Chicago Chapter has a membership of over 300 adults and a large contingent of junior members. It issues a neat and attractive pin button upon which is depicted, in colors, a leaf and flower of the lotus (*Nelumbium luteum*). The button bears the legend "Help us save the wild-flowers, W. F. P. S." It was designed by Frederick Richardson, the delightful illustrator of children's story books. These buttons are sold to children of the city schools for two cents each, who, on purchasing, become junior members pledged to support the cause.

CHARLES F. MILLSPAUGH,
President, W. F. P. S. A.

FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY,
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS.

REVIEWS

Murrill's Polypores

Three small and compact volumes have recently appeared on the Polyporaceae of North America. These volumes are supplementary to the volume on Northern Polypores which was reviewed in a recent number of *TORREYA*. Each volume, in addition to complete keys, contains descriptions of all of the species known to occur in the region covered in each respective case. The treatment of the Polypores known in different sections of the country in separate volumes is a convenient arrangement since it will enable the worker to locate the species in his own section of the country without being compelled to "wade" through the literature of the species which do not occur in his particular region and, from this point of view, the scheme is a great time-saving device. The three volumes which have recently appeared are as follows:

SOUTHERN POLYPORES*

This volume includes the species known to occur in the United States from North Carolina to Florida and west to Texas.

* Murrill, W. A. Southern Polypores. Pp. i-iv + 66. Privately published. January, 1915. Price in cloth, \$1.00 postpaid.